

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2 and replace original Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 1, a cutting blade 16 is now shown and the lead line for the solenoid 1 has been lengthened to touch the solenoid. In Fig. 2, additional reference numerals have been added.

REMARKS

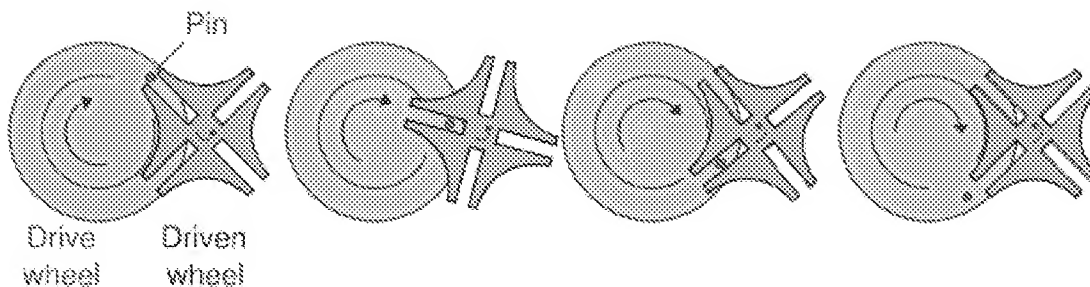
The Examiner has noted non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations in the oath or declaration. A substitute declaration is attached hereto.

The drawings are objected to for not showing right and left torsion fingers. These fingers were shown in Fig. 2 of the application as filed and were referred to generally as reference numeral 10. Additional reference numerals 10a and 10b have been added to Fig. 2 to clarify where the fingers are and a brief description has been added to the specification. No new matter has been added.

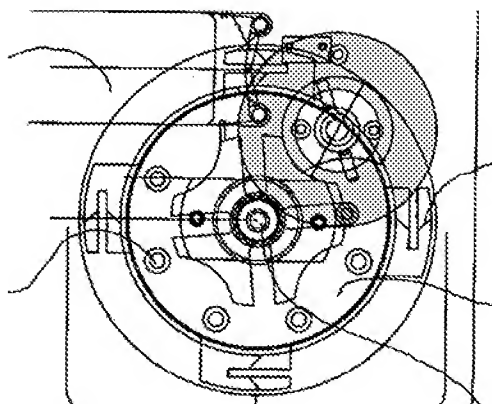
Substitute Figures 1 and 2 are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

The specification has been objected to for numerous reasons. A substitute specification is being submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. For the most part the amendments to the specification merely involve rearranging the original text. Other than that, some brief description of features which were clearly disclosed in the original drawings as filed has been added. For example, in Fig. 1, a cutting blade has been added with a new reference numeral 16. The blade was described in the original specification as filed. In Fig. 2, the torsion fingers have been labeled as described above. The original specification referred to a cutting groove 11. However, it is clear from Fig. 2 that numeral 11 is referring to an angled wall which has a partner (now numbered 11a

and 11b) and an overlying wall (now numbered 11c) with the cutting groove (now numbered 15) cutting through the overlying wall 11c and extending between the angled walls 11a, 11b. The specification has been amended to conform the description to the drawing. The cutting groove 15 clearly lies between these angled centering walls 11a, 11b. Lastly, the indexing wheel 8 has been described as what it clearly is, i.e. a plate driven by a Geneva wheel drive mechanism. In particular, those skilled in the art, looking at Fig. 2 will recognize that the plate 8 is driven by Geneva wheel 14a which in turn is driven by a driver 14b using pin 14c. Below is an illustration from Wikipedia of a Geneva drive.



Compare this with Fig. 2 of the instant application which is reproduced below with some shading to highlight the drive wheel.



Here the drive wheel is shaded in light gray and the pin is shaded in dark gray. It should be appreciated that for every one turn of the drive wheel, the driven wheel turns $\frac{1}{4}$ of a turn, thus bringing each of the four cutting grooves and centering walls up to the cutting location 20 one at a time. It will also be appreciated that because of the nature of the Geneva drive, the Geneva wheel is indexed in that it moves $\frac{1}{4}$ turn, stops, then moves another quarter turn, stops, etc.

Turning now to the Examiner's specific objections point by point, the Examiner states that it is not clear "how the end cutting edges of the two axially cutting knives are directed toward one another." Since those words do not appear in the application, the Applicant cannot respond to this objection. The Specification as originally filed referred to a single blade, now identified in Fig. 1 as numeral 16 which moves up and down with the pills on the indexing wheel below it.

The Examiner next asks "how the self centering pharmaceutical [pill cutter] functions and cut different pill sizes." It is believed that the correction of the description of Fig. 2 to describe what is clearly shown explains how the pill centering works. There

are angled walls 11a, 11b on opposite sides of the cutting groove 15. The pill resides between walls 11a and 11b and under wall 11c. When the indexing wheel brings the pill into position beneath the blade, the walls 11a, 11b tend to center the pill relative to the groove (slot) 15, and depending upon the size of the pills, the torsion fingers 10a, 10b may also bias the pill towards the walls 11a, 11b to center the pill over the groove beneath the blade. It should also be apparent from Fig. 2 that this arrangement will function properly with any pill which has a diameter greater than the width of the groove 15.

Next the Examiner asks “how the components of the self centering pharmaceutical pill [cutter] are related to one another or how these components function individually or with other components.” It should be clear from the figures that pills are located by walls 11a and 11b to be centered relative to groove 15, are moved by the indexing wheel 8 to position under the cutting blade 16, are biased against the angled walls 11a, 11b by the torsion fingers 10a, 10b and then are cut. The indexing wheel then moves again, depositing the cut halves of the pill onto the slide 12 and bringing the next pill into position to be cut.

The Examiner then asks “what encompasses an indexing wheel, torsion fingers, vibration pads, and etc.” It is believed that the indexing wheel and torsion fingers have been clearly illustrated in the original drawings and sufficiently described in the substitute specification. As to the vibration pads, the original specification states that “[t]he pills are collected within the indexing wheel after being shaken by the vibration

pads 13 and gathered in the cutting groove 15.” However, claim 8 states that “the vibration pads will not cause the pills to jump prior to cutting.” The term vibration pads is often used to mean opposite things: something which causes vibration and something which absorbs (prevents) vibration. Nevertheless, vibration pads are not being claimed and they are well known in the art.

The Examiner then states that the specification fails to teach “what makes the pill cutting device a ‘self centering pharmaceutical pill cutting device’.” It is believed that original Fig. 2 and the original specification explain this sufficiently. The amended figure and specification merely clarify what was originally disclosed.

The Examiner also asks “how the indexing wheel is adjustable.” The specification clearly states that the indexing wheel is removable and replaceable with other wheels designed for different pill shapes. In addition, thumb screw 7 which is connected to the Geneva wheel shaft 9 clearly clamps down to hold the indexing wheel in position. Those skilled in the art would understand that by loosening the thumb screw 7, the indexing wheel or plate 8 may be adjusted into a proper rotational position so that the pill receiving areas will properly align with the cutting location each quarter turn. Nevertheless, “adjustable” has been removed from the claims.

The Examiner then again asks “how the torsion fingers keep the pill at center before cutting” and how they work. It is believed that original Fig. 2 and the original

specification explain this sufficiently. The amended figure and specification merely clarify what was originally disclosed.

Further regarding the torsion fingers, the Examiner asks how they spring back. It is believed that original Fig. 2 and the term torsion finger suggests that a spring is at work. Further, an understanding of the Geneva drive clearly indicates that the pill is pressed against the torsion fingers and spreads them apart after the pill is cut and the indexing wheel is moved to the next pill.

The Examiner asks how the indexing wheel holds the pill down as claimed in claim 4. It is respectfully submitted that those skilled in the art would recognize that the overlying wall 11c prevents the pills from jumping upward upon cutting. Thus, the overlying wall effectively holds the pill down.

As to how the wheel accommodates different pill sizes without changing the wheel, that has been explained above with regard to the angled walls 11a, 11b. As to different shaped pills, it is clear that the wheel shown in Fig. 2 will accommodate more than one shape pill, though not necessarily all shapes.

How a solenoid activates a blade up and down is understood by one skilled in the art of electromagnets. Broadly, the plunger extends through the solenoid and is caused to move when the solenoid is electrically activated.

The Examiner questions “how the pills ranging up to 0.187 inch thickness and 0.500 inch diameter can be cut”. This statement merely provides the dimensions of the cutting blade and the dimensions of the angled walls 11a, 11b.

The Examiner then objected to the arrangement of the specification. As stated above, the substitute specification has arranged the parts correctly.

Claims 4 and 7 have been objected to. They have been amended to overcome the objections.

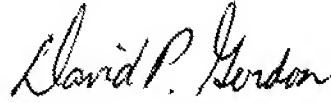
Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. It is believed that this rejection has been overcome by the amendment to the specification and the discussion above.

Claims 1-8 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended and/or canceled to overcome this rejection.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain

outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

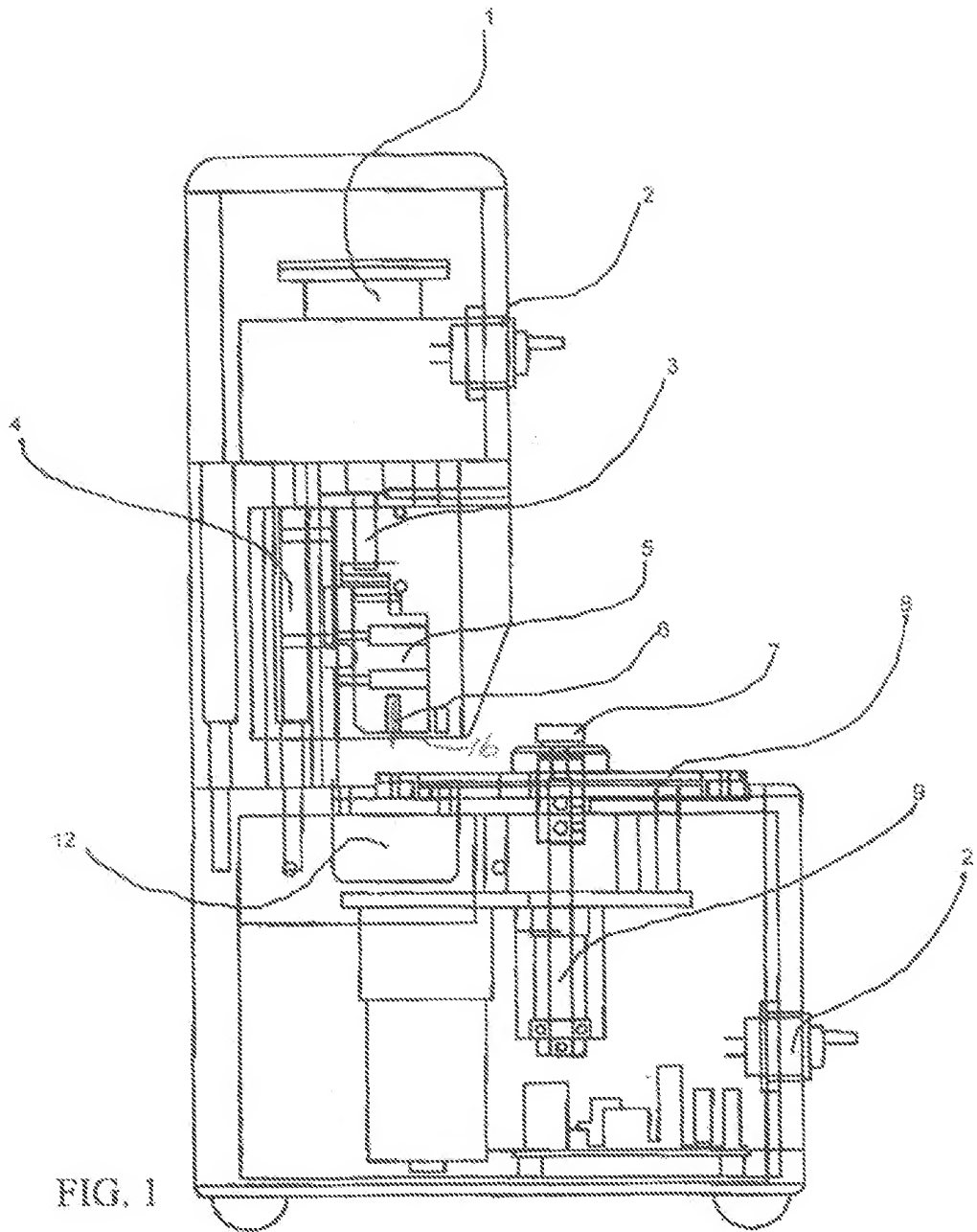
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David P. Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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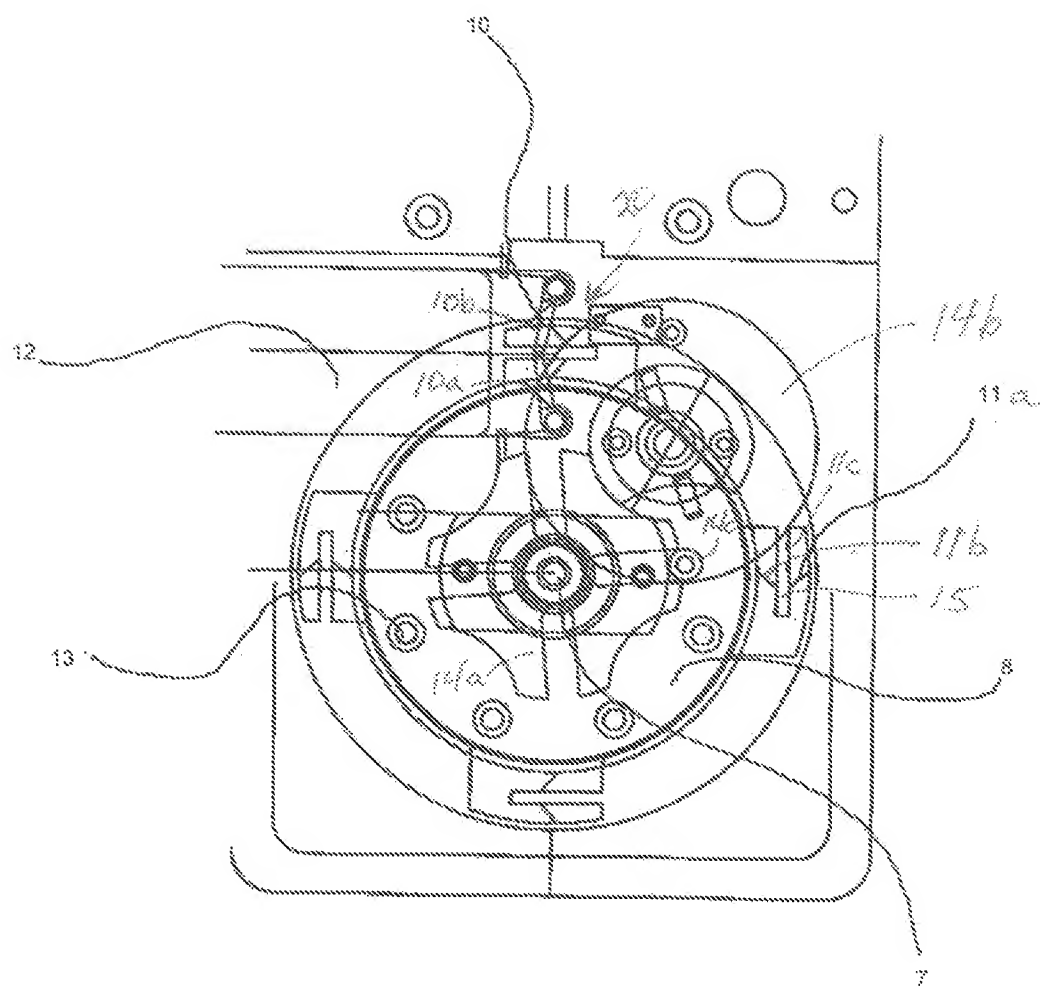


FIG. 2